

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Ake, Mr. Strohm, Mr. Gehret and Mrs. Kooman were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also in attendance were Solicitor, David Gaines, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser, Doug DeAngelis, Ron Becher and Kathy Gabella.

Guests:

Mr. Perry introduced Doug DeAngelis to the Board. Mr. DeAngelis is the Water Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor. Mr. Perry and Mr. Musser both praised the work that Mr. DeAngelis has done.

Mr. DeAngelis gave a brief history of his employment with the Authority and thanked the Board, Mr. Perry and Mr. Musser for the opportunity to become part of the management team.

Public Comment:

None

Election of Officers:

Mr. Strohm moved to nominate the current slate of officers. Mrs. Kooman seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chairman	William Neugebauer
Vice Chairman	Omar Strohm
Secretary	Frank Ake
Treasurer	Cory Gehret
Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer	Barbara Kooman

Mr. Gehret moved to reappoint the law firm of Campbell, Miller, Williams, Benson & Consiglio, Inc. as Solicitor. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Mr. Strohm moved to reappoint the engineering firm of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Inc. as Consulting Engineer. Mrs. Kooman seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Ake moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Unfinished Business:

1. Bellwood Dam DEP Permit Application Review – GDF will be resubmitting the response to DEP for review of the permit application. This will be done next week; hopefully this will be turned around within the next thirty (30) to sixty (60) days. After the permit is received the Authority will be able to apply for Pennvest funding for both the dam and the water treatment plant. There will be separate funding for the dam and the water treatment plant. The dam will be funded with federal monies; and the water treatment plant will be funded with state monies.
2. Water Treatment Plants Ozone System Upgrades – the ozone systems are old and parts aren't available. The ozone is a key part of the treatment process so the upgrades are necessary.
3. Water Treatment Facilities – Individual and Combined Filter Effluent Facilities – under Chapter 109 of the DEP codes the Authority needs to deal with new regulations. This involves updating uninterrupted service plans, updating emergency action plans, and monitoring filtration performance. According to the schedule this should be completed this year.
4. Rubber Dams – Lake Altoona and Impounding Dam – it is still the understanding HTE will replace both rubber dams and will pay for the install. HTE is waiting on the Chinese New Year to come to an end on January 25 to get a commitment from the manufacturer.
5. Goods Lane Water Line Replacement – back in October the Authority filed for Pennvest funding. The Pennvest meeting with staff is scheduled for next week. At that time the Authority will know if the funding is approved.
6. Bellmeade Civic Association Asset Purchase Agreement – everything is in order for the asset purchase. This was a private system with one hundred thirty (130) plus customers. The Bellmeade Civic Association had previously installed a new secondary water main, connecting service to the Altoona Water Authority system back in 2016, making this conveyance easier to accomplish.

There was some work to be done before the Authority actually took over the system. This has been accomplished and closing will be tomorrow. As of Wednesday of this week the system is 100% Authority water. The billing will begin March 1, 2020 for this system as the customers are paid until that date.

There is a resolution to approve the Asset Purchase Agreement which authorizes Mark A. Perry, General Manager to execute all documents to complete the transaction.

Mr. Tom Wyatt explained the Asset Purchase Agreement is to purchase the water lines and easements only, no real property. There are some small tweaks to be made to the agreement however no material changes will be made.

7. Biosolids Treatment Improvements Project –this project is moving forward quickly. The next step will be an agreement with ESG for the construction of the project. The Authority will seek funding from Pennvest.
8. Sanitary Sewer Rehab Lining Project –Contract 196 for the spray-on-lining is slow going. They are doing rehab work, repair work, setting screens and reinforcing material. This is approximately 19% complete.

Contract 197 had been on hold but the contractor is presently back in town and working on a piece by the railroad line behind the Caesar Batiste down to 58th street. This is approximately 55% complete.

9. Atlas Copco Blowers at East Plant – the blowers that were installed during the upgrades of 2010 and 2011 were substandard. They did not live up to the warranty expectations. The Authority received blowers back in July and are now preparing to install. This work started Monday at no cost to the Authority. A meeting with Atlas Copco is scheduled for next week and follow up phone calls will take place every Friday.
10. Keystone Pump Station Improvements and South Jaggard Street Pump and Force Main – the monies for these items will be coming from the debt service reserve. The Keystone Pump Station will include a new roof, soffit and fascia, two new pumps to upgrade the capacity, new generator, new fuel source, new flow meter, new pipe to the control system, and alarm systems.

Right off the end of Jaggard Street and Pleasant Valley Boulevard there is temporary pump set up for the high flows coming off the hill. There have been some by-passes there and pumping was needed. Another force main will be added from Jaggard Street, under 17th Street over toward the Health South facility. There will be approximately 1800' of 12" or 14" of pipe installed. A new pump will be set and a new pump vault and suction area to eliminate pumping into the stream when there are high rain events.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Neugebauer asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisition #24 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$78,860.31

Requisitions #28-29 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$196,723.65

Sewer Division Capital Fund totaling - \$11,501.17

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the requisitions. Mr. Ake seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Mrs. DeRubeis went over the preliminary financial statements for December. She stated there may be minor changes to be made to it.

New Business:

None

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution #20-01-924 to authorize the disposition of 2012 records
2. Resolution #20-01-925 to approve the Bellmeade Civic Association Asset Purchase Agreement and to authorize Mark A. Perry, General Manager to execute said agreement, subject to any non substantive changes approved by council and Mark A. Perry, and any other necessary documents to complete the transaction

Mr. Strohm moved to approve Resolutions 20-01-924 and 20-01-925. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

1. Award chemical bids to lowest responsible bidder
2. Award stone and concrete bids to lowest responsible bidder
3. Award manhole castings and frames to lowest responsible bidder

Mr. Gehret moved to approve bid award items 1 through 3. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Other Business:

1. Board Meeting Change for March – the March meeting needs to be changed from March 19, 2020 to March 26, 2020.

Mrs. Kooman moved to approve the date change for the March Board Meeting. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

2. Thayne Nader – a letter has been sent to Mr. Nader explaining the Authority's position and its policy of the landlord being ultimately responsible for the water/sewer bill.

Media Questions

The board and staff addressed questions from Bill Kibler of the Altoona Mirror.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 10:25 for legal issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: February 20, 2020



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg